

Peer Connections Newsletter

Words of Wisdom

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction. – Irish Proverb
 May your home always be too small to hold all of your friends. – Irish Blessing

Calendar of Events

Peer Connections

- *March 5 - Ash Wednesday*
- *March 7- LEAP!*
- *March 8 - DIVE!*
- *March 14-16 - Women's Retreat at Our Lady of Calvary*
- *April 4 - LEAP!*
- *April 5 - DIVE!*
- *April 6 - Service Project: Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry*
- *April 13 - Palm Sunday*
- *April 17 - Holy Thursday*
- *April 18 - Faith Walk at St. Patrick's in Farmington*
- *April 18 - Good Friday*
- *April 19 - Holy Saturday*
- *April 20 - Easter Sunday*
- *May 3 - Free Car Wash*
- *May 9 - LEAP!*
- *May 10 - DIVE!*
- *May 17 - Relay for Life*
- *June 1 - DIVE! Retreat (6th & 7th grades)*
- *June 7 - Peer Connections Summer Social*
- *June 20-22 - Christian Leadership Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center*
- *July 12 - Family Outing to Rock Cats Game*
- *August 7-10 - Soul Fest 2014*
- *September 21 - Catholic Youth Spectacular*
- *November - Service Project: End Hunger New England with FVAMC*

Holidays and Holy Days

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

- 7:45am - Mass and Distribution of Ashes
- 6:00pm - Mass and Distribution of Ashes

Ideas for Lent

As Lent approaches the church will begin to prepare, we too need to make our own preparations. Some are done as an individual, some with your family and some are parish wide.

	Individual Activity
	Family Activity
	Parish Activity (Volunteers needed)

Attend Ash Wednesday Mass
Go to Confession every Monday during Lent
Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent
Invite a friend to Peer Connections
Jelly Bean Prayer *
"Before I Die" Prayer Wall **
Family Dinner once a week
Pray grace before every meal
Pray the rosary
Start a prayer journal
Attend Palm Sunday Mass
Attend Holy Thursday Mass
Participate in the Faith Walk ***
Attend Good Friday Service

- * *Jelly Bean Prayer* - volunteers are needed to stuff bags and pass out bags after mass.
- ** *"Before I Die" Prayer Wall* - volunteer are needed to "man the wall" after mass.
- *** *Faith Walk* - contact Amanda if you want to participate.

Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry

April 6, 2014

Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry

Impacting Families in Connecticut

Together with other local youth groups LEAP! members will be assisting at the Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry in Hartford.

Pre-event Activities

To get ready for this event, donations of food, toiletry and clothing will be collected during LEAP! & DIVE! on April 4 & 5. Everyone is asked to donate even if you can't attend the event.

Day of event

LEAP! teens will attend 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 6 and then meet up with the other youth groups and travel to Hartford for a start time of 1:00pm at the food pantry.

Post event Activities

LEAP! teens will return to Teen Center at 3:45 pm for pizza and discussion about the event. Any sophomores in the Confirmation program can hang out at the Teen Center until 5:30 and walk over to the church as a group for class unless other arrangements are made.

Service Project Team



Love. Grow. Serve.

Looking for a few good Peer Connections members to research, organize, coordinate and lead service projects for the group. Jesus tells us in the Gospels to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick & imprisoned, shelter the homeless. However, no single person can do it alone. If you would like to join this team, please email st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com.

NEXT DIVE! & LEAP! MEETING

LEAP! - March 7 at 7pm

DIVE! - March 8 at 7pm



As part of Lent invite a friend to come with you to learn about the youth group.

Faith Walk

Good Friday, April 18, 2014

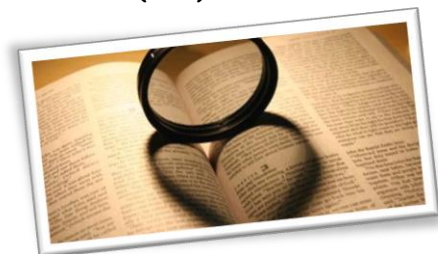
St. Patrick's Church, Farmington



We have once again been invited to be a part of the annual Faith Walk at St. Patrick's. The walk will start at 10am in the parking lot of St. Patrick's Church. The Faith Walk is an outdoor reenactment of the Stations of the Cross. If you would like to be a participant email Amanda ASAP!

Bible Study Class - Isaiah

A course on the Old Testament Book of Isaiah will be held at the Hart House on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., starting on Saturday, March 8, 2014. If interested, please contact Bob Murphy at (860) 673-9551.



Who's Who? Amanda McCaffrey, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Learn about us! Online @ stmary-unionville.org or www.facebook.com/stmaryspeerconnections

Where we meet? St. Mary Star of the Sea Church or the Teen Center on School Street in Unionville



Altar Servers

Interested in becoming an Altar Server?
Now is the time to sign up. A new training session will be starting soon!

Requirements:

- Must be in 4th grade
- Made your First Communion
- Willing to serve at any mass including Holy Day of Obligation.



ALTAR SERVER
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

Are you currently an Altar Server and would like to help train? Contact Amanda.

Women's Retreat

Moms this is for you!

Take some "me" time. Retreats are an amazing way for you to focus on yourself, relax, learn and strengthen your faith.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat House
March 14-16, 2014

<http://www.ourladyofcalvary.com/home>

Moms can also attend the Women's Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. There is no specific weekend for the women of St. Mary's.

Summer Trips

Christian Leadership Retreat
June 20-22, 2014



HOLY FAMILY
PASSIONIST
RETREAT CENTER

All high school students or anyone that will be entering 9th grade in the fall are invited to spend a weekend with other Christian teens playing games, walking the grounds, praying and just having fun. Even if you have finals the next week, use this weekend as a time to prepare. Go to www.holyfamilyretreat.org/youth---christian-leadership-retreat to hear from a teen that was a part of last year's weekend. Scholarships are available and Peer Connections will pay half of your retreat cost.

Soul Fest 2014

August 7-10, 2014



Sign up today for the early bird special rate!

"New England's Premier Christian music and worship festival and family retreat. Held annually at the beautiful Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, New Hampshire August 7-10, 2014 featuring world renown artists and speakers on five separate stages."

FYI, this event draws a lot of people and we will be camping for the 4 days. Lunch and dinner, campsites, lift tickets and a multi-day pass to the concerts and speakers are included. All you need to bring is some clothes and a sleeping bag. This is a great family vacation or come with friends. For more information about Soul Fest go to www.thesoulfest.com or the Facebook page www.facebook.com/soulfest

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Facts about St. Patrick's Day



- ♣ Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000
- ♣ Patrick's color is blue. The original color associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as commonly believe.
- ♣ The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States on March 17, 1762, when Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City.
- ♣ St. Patrick wasn't Irish and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England, or more precisely in Scotland or Wales. He was born in 385 AD.
- ♣ Trivia Question: What does legend says that each leaf of the clover mean?



Christopher, Frank, Katie, & Elisabeth

Lent Comics

Catholic Problems #65

Go to McDonald's on Ash Wednesday. Cashier rings up a fish sandwich before you order.



Catholic Problems #122

Lent.

Easter candy is everywhere.

Are you paying attention?

The first 5 people to email their answer to the St. Patrick's Day Trivia Question to st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com will win a gift card. The winners and the answer will be in next month's newsletter.

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